

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA DEDICATES NEW SECURITY VESSEL

(Reserve, LA)

The Port of South Louisiana officially dedicated its new Port Security Vessel (PSV) *Accardo* during a ceremony held on the general cargo dock at Globalplex Intermodal Terminal in Reserve, Louisiana. The event took place on Wednesday, August 3, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m. The PSV *Accardo* is named after Joseph Accardo, Jr., former CEO of the Port of South Louisiana until April 15, 2005. Mr. Accardo is currently the Executive Director of The Port's Association of Louisiana (PAL).



Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson hosted the ceremony. The program included remarks from Dr. Duane Blumberg, Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and Captain Frank Paskewich, Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in New Orleans. Invited guest also included representatives from the Port of South Louisiana Commission and staff, representatives from the Louisiana congressional delegation, United States Coast Guard, state, and local elected officials.



The PSV *Accardo* was constructed at a cost of \$850,000. The project was funded by a federal grant of \$600,000 and \$250,000 from the port. The vessel measures forty-nine ft. (49') in length and is capable of speeds in excess of thirty (30) knots.

The PSV *Accardo* is designed to enhance and support maritime security on the Lower Mississippi River. The emergency response vessel will patrol the Port of South Louisiana's 54 river-mile district in the parishes of St. Charles, St. John, and St. James.

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**Photo 1: (Right to Left) Former Port of South Louisiana CEO Joseph Accardo, Jr., and his wife Catherine Accardo, strike a bottle of champagne on the bow of the PSV Accardo, while Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), and members of the Port of South Louisiana Commission and staff look on.**

**Photo 2: (Left to Right in front of PSV Accardo) Port of South LA Marine Operations Director Mitch Smith, Port of South LA Commission Vice-President Louis Joseph, Port of South LA Executive Director Joel T. Chaisson, Former Port of South LA CEO and current President of the Port's Association of Louisiana (PAL) Joseph Accardo, Jr., Port of South LA Commission Secretary Lawrence Jackson, Port of South LA Commission Vice-President Gregory Gravois, and Port of South LA Commission President P. Joey Murray, III.**